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## II. BOOK REVIEWS.

THE PRINCIPLES OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW governing the relations of public officers. By Bruce Wyman. St. Paul, Minn.: Keefe-Davidson Company. 1903. pp. x, 641. 8vo.

There may be said to be three fundamental canons of successful law-book making: a subject wisely chosen in a field where new work is needed; then clear, accurate, and logical analysis, exposition, and argument of that subject; and finally the whole matter set forth in good, forceful English, and molded into such a form as will make its meaning readily apparent and its material easily accessible. The present volume, which is based upon an occasional course of lectures delivered in the last few years by its author in the Harvard Law School, to a considerable degree meets the requirements of two of these canons.

Though *Le Droit Administratif* constitutes a most important topic in all continental systems of jurisprudence, it has never played a part of any special importance in our law. There is no place in the domain of the common law for a separate independent system governing the relations of public officers either among themselves or to the public. However, where the common law principles have touched upon the rights and duties of administrative officers, there have arisen certain important rules, which coupled with principles purely administrative in their nature have given rise to a branch of law of considerable and growing importance. This topic has never received adequate treatment from text-writers. A treatise therefore dealing in an elementary way with the main principles of this subject, which is all that the present volume attempts to do, should be of considerable practical value. It should also exercise not a little influence upon the future development of administrative law.

The writer has analyzed his subject with considerable care, approaching it from many different points of view. After a brief introductory chapter, he treats in general outline the relation of the administration to the individual citizen and to the other branches of the government. He then takes up the rights, powers, and duties of the administration, its character, the scope and effect of its methods of performing its work, and finally the extent and limits of its jurisdiction. The general principles are stated carefully and accurately and the whole subject covered in a concise but interesting manner. Decisions and other authorities are extensively quoted, and a valuable collection of cases is to be found in the notes.

The third requisite of the successful law book, however, the author has not kept carefully before him. The English of this book is often careless and crude. The sentences are frequently disjointed and sometimes unwieldy. The punctuation, moreover, is often inadequate. Not a quotation mark is used throughout the work, although extracts from decisions and other authorities are most numerous. As a result of this latter defect, it is often impossible to separate the language of the quotation from the author's own discussion. This leads to confusion and is likely to be the source of mistakes and the cause of embarrassment. The topics printed as the subjects of the paragraphs are too concise and disconnected to furnish any clear analysis of the chapters or to serve as real guides to the discussions which they are intended to cover.

The subject matter of these lectures is unquestionably an addition of considerable merit to legal scholarship. The book should thus prove a helpful manual to public officers and to all concerned with the legal problems growing out of their relations with public officers. It is therefore to be hoped that the work will soon deserve a second edition so that the author may correct the defects which mar it in its present form.

An extensive appendix collecting various statutes, regulations, and rules governing administrative practice before the chief federal executive departments adds to the practical usefulness of the book.

W. H. H.